

2. (amended) In a [A] method for isolating a molecule from a sample in a vessel using affinity particles, comprising the steps of:

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- (a) combining the sample containing a molecule of interest with affinity particles suitable for binding said molecule, said affinity particles being insoluble in the sample;
- (b) collecting the affinity particles;
- (c) separating the affinity particles from the unbound remainder of the sample;
- (d) optionally, resuspending the affinity particles in a solution;
- (e) optionally, eluting said molecule from the affinity particles, followed by separating the affinity particles from said eluted molecule;

the improvement wherein at least one of steps (a), (b), (c), (d) if present, and (e) if present is performed in the presence of detergent wherein the amount of detergent is sufficient to reduce loss of particles during any separation step, in comparison to the same method performed in the absence of detergent.

In Claim 18, at line 6, before both recitations of "(20) sorbitol", please delete both recitations of "polyoxyeethylene" and insert for each the correctly spelled term --polyoxyethylene--; and at line 7, before "(20) sorbitol", please delete "polyoxyeethylene" and insert therefor the correctly spelled term --polyoxyethylene--.

In Claim 31, at line 2, please delete "polyoxyeethylene" and insert therefor the correctly spelled term --polyoxyethylene--.

In Claim 32, at line 2, please delete "polyoxyeethylene" and insert therefor the correctly spelled term --polyoxyethylene--.

33. (amended) A [separation] method of separating particles from a solution comprising the steps of:

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- (a) incubating a finely divided particulate matrix material in the presence of a detergent wherein the amount of detergent is sufficient to reduce loss of particles during any separation step;
- (b) dispersing said particulate matrix material in a sample;
- (c) collecting the particles of the particulate matrix material; and
- (d) separating [removing] the supernatant from the particulate matrix material.

34. (amended) In a [A] method for isolating a molecule of interest from a sample in a vessel using affinity particles, comprising the steps of:

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- (a) providing a multiplicity of affinity particles having a binding affinity for said molecule of interest [and incubating said particles in the presence of a detergent];
 - (b) combining the sample containing [a] the molecule of interest with affinity particles suitable for binding said molecule of interest, said affinity particles being insoluble in the sample;
 - (c) collecting the affinity particles;
 - (d) separating the affinity particles from the unbound remainder of the sample;
 - (e) optionally, resuspending the affinity particles in a solution;
 - (f) optionally, eluting said molecule of interest from the affinity particles, followed by separating the affinity particles from said eluted molecule;

[wherein any of the steps (b), (c), (d), (e) if present, and (f) if present may optionally be also performed in the presence of detergent,] the improvement wherein the [use of detergent] affinity particles in step (a) are incubated in the presence of a detergent in an amount [is] sufficient to reduce loss of particles during any subsequent separation step, in comparison to the same method performed in the absence of detergent, and wherein any of the steps (b), (c), (d), (e) if present, and (f) if present may optionally be also performed in the presence of detergent.

In Claim 49, at line 6, before both recitations of "(20) sorbitol", please delete both recitations of "polyoxyeethylene" and insert for each the correctly spelled term --polyoxyethylene--; and at line 7, before "(20) sorbitol", please delete "polyoxyeethylene" and insert therefor the correctly spelled term --polyoxyethylene--.

In Claim 50, at line 1, please delete "polyoxyeethylene" and insert therefor the correctly spelled term --polyoxyethylene--.

In Claim 62, at line 2, please delete "polyoxyeethylene" and insert therefor the correctly spelled term --polyoxyethylene--.

In Claim 63, at line 2, please delete "polyoxyeethylene" and insert therefor the correctly spelled term --polyoxyethylene--.

64. (amended) In a [A] method for isolating a molecule from a sample in a vessel using magnetic affinity particles, comprising the steps of:

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- (a) combining the sample containing a molecule of interest with magnetic affinity particles suitable for binding said molecule, said magnetic affinity particles being insoluble in the sample;
 - (b) applying a magnetic field to the vessel so as to attract and immobilize the magnetic affinity particles;
 - (c) separating the unimmobilized remainder of the sample from the immobilized magnetic affinity particles;
 - (d) optionally, resuspending the magnetic affinity particles in a solution;
 - (e) optionally, eluting said molecule from the affinity particles, followed by separating the affinity particles from said eluted molecule;

the improvement wherein at least one of steps (a), (b), (c), (d) if present, and (e) if present is performed in the presence of detergent wherein the amount of detergent is sufficient to reduce loss of particles during any subsequent separation step, in comparison to the same method performed in the absence of detergent.

66. (amended) In a [A] method for isolating a molecule of interest from a sample in a vessel, comprising the steps of:

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- (a) providing a multiplicity of magnetic affinity particles suitable for binding said molecule of interest [and incubating said particles in the presence of a detergent];
 - (b) combining the sample containing a molecule of interest with said affinity particles suitable for binding said molecule, said affinity particles being insoluble in the sample;
 - (c) immobilizing the magnetic affinity particles by applying a [magnet] magnetic field to said vessel;
 - (d) separating the remainder of the sample from the immobilized magnetic affinity particles;
 - (e) optionally, resuspending the affinity particles in a solution;
 - (f) optionally, eluting said molecule from the affinity particles, followed by separating the affinity particles from said eluted molecule;